

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 20878 161857Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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S E C R E T BONN 20878

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO USDEL SALT GENEVA, LONDON,
PARIS, AND MOSCOW

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM MNUC GW US

SUBJECT: SALT: SOVIET QUESTIONS ABOUT NATO
CONSULTATIONS

1. .AN OFFICER OF

THE SOVIET EMBASSY TOLD THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY THAT
THE SOVIETS HAD READ RECENT PRESS STORIES ABOUT THE
NATO MINISTERIAL OF LAST WEEK AND WERE CURIOUS TO KNOW
WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT THE US WAS GIVING THE EUROPEANS
A PARTICIPATION IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT
THIS COULD CAUSE SOME CONCERN TO THE SOVIET UNION.

2. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID THAT THE US WAS IN
CONSULTATION WITH ITS NATO ALLIES ABOUT THE SALT
NEGOTIATIONS, ON THE BASIS OF THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SALT WAS AN IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE
THAT WE ALL SHARED. HE INDICATED THAT WHAT WAS INVOLVED
WAS NOT EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OR
DETERMINATION OVER THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT A PROCESS OF
CONSULTATION. THE SOVIET OFFICIAL INDICATED THAT
THIS WOULD CREATE NO PROBLEMS.

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3. COMMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD
HERE OF SOVIET CURIOSITY REGARDING NATO CONSULTA-
TIONS ON SALT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAVE
APPROACHED THE FRG DIRECTLY, BUT THE SOVIET EMBASSY
OFFICIAL GAVE NO INDICATION THAT THEY HAD DONE SO.
END COMMENT.

4. IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY
OFFICIAL IN PASSING, OBSERVED THAT BREZHNEV WAS NOT ILL
BUT "TIRED."
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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